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REAPPORTIONMENT PUBLIC HEARING

SEPTEMBER 21, 2001 - 9:00 A.M.

NEW COLLEGE, SUDAKOFF CENTER

SARASOTA, FLORIDA

REPORTED BY:

KRISTEN L. BENTLEY

COURT REPORTER

Division of Administrative Hearings

DeSoto Building

1230 Apalachee Parkway

Tallahassee, Florida

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 2</p> <p>1 MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE</p> <p>2 SENATOR WALTER G. CAMPBELL, JR.</p> <p>3 SENATOR LISA CARLTON</p> <p>4 SENATOR ANNA P. COWIN</p> <p>5 SENATOR ALEX DIAZ DE LA PORTILLA</p> <p>6 SENATOR JACK LATVALA</p> <p>7 SENATOR DURELL PEADEN, JR.</p> <p>8 SENATOR DANIEL WEBSTER</p> <p>9 REPRESENTATIVE RANDY JOHN BALL</p> <p>10 REPRESENTATIVE GUS MICHAEL BILIRAKIS</p> <p>11 REPRESENTATIVE JOHNNIE B. BYRD, JR.</p> <p>12 REPRESENTATIVE DONNA CLARKE</p> <p>13 REPRESENTATIVE MARIO DIAZ-BALART</p> <p>14 REPRESENTATIVE PAULA BONO DOCKERY</p> <p>15 REPRESENTATIVE MIKE FASANO</p> <p>16 REPRESENTATIVE MARK G. FLANAGAN</p> <p>17 REPRESENTATIVE JEFFREY D. KOTTKAMP</p> <p>18 REPRESENTATIVE BRUCE KYLE</p> <p>19 REPRESENTATIVE SANDRA L. MURMAN</p> <p>20 REPRESENTATIVE MITCH NEEDELMAN</p> <p>21 REPRESENTATIVE LESLIE WATERS</p> <p>22</p> <p>23</p> <p>24</p> <p>25</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 4</p> <p>1 throughout these public hearings. This is a public</p> <p>2 hearing, the sole and only purpose of which is to hear from</p> <p>3 the public on matters relating to redistricting. It's not</p> <p>4 a legislative committee meeting. And we will not be taking</p> <p>5 legislative action today or in any subsequent public</p> <p>6 hearings.</p> <p>7 Instead, this is the public's forum where we have an</p> <p>8 opportunity to receive citizen input about their electoral</p> <p>9 districts. It's not the time for legislative debate. All</p> <p>10 Representatives and Senators will have numerous</p> <p>11 opportunities in subsequent committee meetings and floor</p> <p>12 debates to address all the members' concerns and wishes.</p> <p>13 Today, however, is for you, our constituents. We must not</p> <p>14 diminish your voice by taking up your valuable time today</p> <p>15 in debate.</p> <p>16 Following my remarks, we will have legal counsel give</p> <p>17 a general overview of the legal considerations in</p> <p>18 redistricting for your benefit and then our staff will</p> <p>19 provide some specific information about the 2000 census and</p> <p>20 those results in this region and the state of Florida as a</p> <p>21 whole. The rest of the time we'll reserve for you, the</p> <p>22 public, for your input. Every ten years after the</p> <p>23 completion of the updated national census the Constitution</p> <p>24 requires that the Florida Legislature redraw the boundaries</p> <p>25 of the districts of the Florida House of Representatives,</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 3</p> <p>1 PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>2 SENATOR WEBSTER: Could we all stand for the Pledge of</p> <p>3 Allegiance.</p> <p>4 (Pledge.)</p> <p>5 SENATOR WEBSTER: Good morning. My name is Daniel</p> <p>6 Webster. I'm from District 12, Senator, chairman of the</p> <p>7 Senate Redistricting Committee. It's my pleasure to</p> <p>8 welcome you to this public hearing this morning. Senators</p> <p>9 and Representatives are here to listen to the residents of</p> <p>10 this area and consider your input in this very important</p> <p>11 process.</p> <p>12 Since these are joint meetings, we've divided the</p> <p>13 responsibilities throughout many of these public hearings</p> <p>14 which will be held in the next several weeks. It's my</p> <p>15 pleasure at this time to introduce Representative Johnnie</p> <p>16 Byrd who is the chairman of the House Procedural and</p> <p>17 Redistricting Council. And Chairman Byrd will preside over</p> <p>18 this hearing today. Chairman Byrd.</p> <p>19 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm</p> <p>20 Johnnie Byrd, Representative from House District 62 and I'm</p> <p>21 chairman of the House Procedural and Redistricting Council.</p> <p>22 It is also my pleasure to welcome you to this public</p> <p>23 hearing. It is one of over 20 to be held throughout the</p> <p>24 state of Florida this summer and fall.</p> <p>25 First let me explain the procedure that we will use</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 5</p> <p>1 the Florida Senate and Florida's Congressional districts.</p> <p>2 The Legislature will take up this task next</p> <p>3 legislative session beginning January the 22nd, 2002. The</p> <p>4 districts we draw will be first used in the elections of</p> <p>5 the fall of 2002. Redistricting is a central element of</p> <p>6 our representative democracy. We take on this with</p> <p>7 humility and due regard for the importance and difficulty</p> <p>8 of the job. We are committed that the process will be</p> <p>9 fair, open, and inclusive. These public hearings represent</p> <p>10 a crucial first step in this process.</p> <p>11 We appreciate that we are doing the work of the</p> <p>12 people. We want to hear from you and help you participate</p> <p>13 in a meaningful way. To encourage public participation,</p> <p>14 House Speaker Tom Feeney and Senate President John McKay</p> <p>15 have scheduled these public hearings. All members of the</p> <p>16 Legislature's redistricting committees as well as local</p> <p>17 delegation members have been invited to these public</p> <p>18 hearings.</p> <p>19 These hearings will be taped so that they can also be</p> <p>20 made available to all members of the Legislature. The</p> <p>21 House and the Senate have designed web sites as a tool for</p> <p>22 public input and will broadcast select hearings on</p> <p>23 Florida's public television stations. The web addresses</p> <p>24 for the House and Senate legislative redistricting are</p> <p>25 available at the sign-in table and there is also a web</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 6</p> <p>1 address available for the Florida legislative web site.</p> <p>2 The redistricting plan for the State House and Senate</p> <p>3 will be passed in the form of a joint resolution which will</p> <p>4 not be subject to the Governor's veto or approval but will</p> <p>5 be reviewed by the Florida Supreme Court. On the other</p> <p>6 hand, the plan determining Congressional districts will not</p> <p>7 be reviewed by the Florida Supreme Court but will be</p> <p>8 subject to the Governor's approval or veto.</p> <p>9 I encourage everyone to carefully review the 2000</p> <p>10 census. It is the essential building block on which</p> <p>11 Florida's redistricting plans will be built. The United</p> <p>12 States census web site is also available at the sign-in</p> <p>13 table. Again, we are here to listen and consider your</p> <p>14 voice. We encourage every member of the public to testify</p> <p>15 and help us craft your legislative districts.</p> <p>16 In addition, we encourage written submissions to the</p> <p>17 testimony during the public hearing. Everyone who wishes</p> <p>18 to speak must fill out a speaker's card, that's the only</p> <p>19 way that we will know who wishes to speak and afterwards</p> <p>20 who, in fact, did speak. These cards are available also at</p> <p>21 the sign-in table.</p> <p>22 In addition, because we want to hear from as many</p> <p>23 people as possible, we must limit your comments to about</p> <p>24 four minutes. On behalf of House Speaker Tom Feeney and</p> <p>25 Senate President John McKay and the members of the Florida</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 8</p> <p>1 also have David Mills who is the chairman of the Sarasota</p> <p>2 County Commission. Good morning. Welcome.</p> <p>3 MR. MILLS: Thank you very much, Representative Byrd,</p> <p>4 Representatives and Senators here today. This is truly a</p> <p>5 momentous time in our lives, being able to be a part of the</p> <p>6 process and we thank you so very much for being in Sarasota</p> <p>7 County.</p> <p>8 I think the events over the past two weeks have really</p> <p>9 changed our nation, have changed the debate, if you will.</p> <p>10 It doesn't appear the debate is there. We are now united</p> <p>11 as one country. These past few weeks we've seen shark</p> <p>12 attacks, red tide attacks, tropical storms in our area.</p> <p>13 I'm here to report that Sarasota County, Manatee County,</p> <p>14 are alive and well and ready to move forward. Thank you so</p> <p>15 much for being here.</p> <p>16 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Thank, Mr. Chairman.</p> <p>17 Now at this time, ladies and gentlemen, I'll recognize</p> <p>18 George Meros who is a member of the House legal team to</p> <p>19 give us a brief legal presentation. Attorney Meros, you</p> <p>20 are recognized.</p> <p>21 MR. MEROS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, members. Again,</p> <p>22 my name is George Meros. Gray, Harris, and Robinson. It</p> <p>23 is my honor to serve as cocounsel for the House of</p> <p>24 Representatives on matters of redistricting. I'm here</p> <p>25 together with my colleague, Senator Jim Scott, counsel for</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 7</p> <p>1 Legislature, I look forward to working with all of you on</p> <p>2 this historic and important task.</p> <p>3 At this time, I would like to ask -- well, before we</p> <p>4 get into the legal presentation, we have the Secretary of</p> <p>5 State is here, Katherine Harris. We'd like to ask you and</p> <p>6 recognize you maybe to say hello to the public hearing.</p> <p>7 You're recognized. Good morning.</p> <p>8 (Applause.)</p> <p>9 SECRETARY HARRIS: Chairman Byrd, and Chairman</p> <p>10 Webster, distinguished members of the panel, thank you so</p> <p>11 very much for being in Sarasota. As you know, the</p> <p>12 Constitution mandates that I have a residence in</p> <p>13 Tallahassee, but Sarasota is my home. On behalf of all my</p> <p>14 friends and neighborhoods and my community, we welcome you</p> <p>15 to Sarasota.</p> <p>16 I want to publicly express my deepest appreciation for</p> <p>17 this unprecedented outreach, the openness that you are</p> <p>18 doing throughout the state to bring this process to the</p> <p>19 people. We are immensely grateful and we commend you for</p> <p>20 doing this, for listening to us before you make your</p> <p>21 decision. I believe this is truly representative</p> <p>22 government. So I just welcome you as a member of this</p> <p>23 community and thank you so very much for choosing to be</p> <p>24 here in Sarasota. Thank you.</p> <p>25 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Thank you, Madam Secretary. We</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 9</p> <p>1 the Florida Senate. I will give you today simply a brief</p> <p>2 overview of the law regarding reapportionment and</p> <p>3 redistricting both for the benefit of the members and the</p> <p>4 benefit of the public.</p> <p>5 The presentation is not comprehensive. It is intended</p> <p>6 to give simply an introduction to some of the many complex</p> <p>7 issues that will guide your decisions during this process.</p> <p>8 Reapportionment and redistricting is the process of</p> <p>9 dividing residents of a jurisdiction, in this case the</p> <p>10 entire state, into electoral districts or seats.</p> <p>11 Redistricting is a Constitutional requirement both under</p> <p>12 the Florida Constitution and Federal Constitution that must</p> <p>13 be done every ten years after the decennial census.</p> <p>14 Florida's population has increased substantially in</p> <p>15 the last ten years. And because of that, our Congressional</p> <p>16 delegation has increased and we will have 25 members of</p> <p>17 Congress and it will of course be this Legislature's</p> <p>18 responsibility to create those Congressional districts.</p> <p>19 With regard to state districts for the State House and</p> <p>20 State Senate, the Legislature will be charged with the duty</p> <p>21 to divide the state into 40 State Senate districts and 120</p> <p>22 State House of Representative districts, though under the</p> <p>23 Constitution the Legislature could, if it chose, divide the</p> <p>24 state into as few as 30 Senate districts and as few as 80</p> <p>25 House districts.</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 10</p> <p>1 The Constitution requires that the House and Senate 2 districts be consecutively numbered and of either 3 contiguous, overlapping or identical territory. The public 4 hearing process commences the process of the redistricting 5 task that you have. It will be followed by legislative 6 hearings of course this fall and the regular session next 7 year. The regular session of course ends in March of 2002. 8 The legislative process regarding redistricting can, 9 of course, be concluded in the regular session in March of 10 2002 but it does not have to. The Constitution provides 11 for additional sessions and review processes depending upon 12 the circumstances that occur. Some of these are somewhat 13 complex but I want to talk about some of the time lines. 14 For example, the Constitution requires that if a plan 15 for state apportionment is not completed during the regular 16 session that the Governor will reconvene the Legislature in 17 a special session that shall not exceed 30 consecutive 18 days. With regard to Congressional redistricting, if 19 during the regular or special session a Congressional plan 20 is adopted, the Governor has the opportunity to veto or to 21 approve that plan. 22 Under Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act, which we 23 will discuss in a little bit more detail, that plan will be 24 subject to review by the Justice Department, by the 25 Attorney General's Office or by the District Court for</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 12</p> <p>1 briefly. This Legislature is guided primarily by the 2 adoption of one person, one vote and also by the 3 requirement of the United States Constitution, the Equal 4 Protection Clause and the Voting Rights Act. The doctrine 5 or concept of one person, one vote arose out of decisions 6 in the 1960s in which the U.S. Supreme Court invalidated a 7 number of plans around the country where there was a great 8 disparity in population among districts. The court found 9 that it was unconstitutional and in deprivation of one's 10 right to vote if some districts -- many had 150,000 people 11 in them and other districts had 50,000 people in them -- 12 the concept there was some persons' votes counted for more 13 than others. 14 And the essence of the one person, one vote standard 15 is there should be a general equality in population in the 16 districts. Not mathematically perfect, but reasonably 17 close with as small a deviation as possible. There is a 18 difference in the permissible deviation in population among 19 Congressional districts and state districts. With regard 20 to Congressional districts the courts require that the 21 population deviation be as minimal as possible, typically 22 less than 1 percent. And deviation is based on the concept 23 of an ideal district size. 24 For example, in the case of Florida, what you would do 25 to determine the ideal district size for the Congressional</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 11</p> <p>1 the -- the United States District Court for the District of 2 Columbia because Florida, five jurisdictions, five counties 3 within Florida, are covered by Section 5 of the Voting 4 Rights Act. 5 Now with respect to the Senate and House seats in 6 Florida, if the Legislature adopts a redistricting plan, 15 7 days thereafter the Attorney General must petition the 8 Florida Supreme Court to review the plan and determine 9 whether the plan is valid in whole or in part. 10 If the Supreme Court were to declare the plan invalid, 11 then the Constitution mandates that within five days the 12 Governor would reconvene the Legislature in an 13 extraordinary session of no more than 15 days during which 14 it would be the responsibility of the Legislature to adopt 15 a plan consistent with the Supreme Court's opinion and 16 mandate. 17 Assuming that during the regular and special sessions 18 a redistricting plan is not adopted, both during regular 19 and special sessions, then the Attorney General must then 20 petition the Florida Supreme Court to take jurisdiction of 21 the cause and to draw a state plan itself. And then within 22 60 days of that process the Supreme Court would come up 23 with a plan. And, again, with regard to the state plan, 24 there will be a Section 5 preclearance review. 25 A couple of redistricting principles to talk about</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 13</p> <p>1 seats is divide the number of Congressional seats, 25, into 2 the population of Florida which would result in the ideal 3 population for each Congressional district. The various 4 districts then must be within 1 percent deviation among 5 each other to satisfy the one person, one vote standard. 6 With regard to state legislative districts, a total 7 deviation of up to 10 percent is presumptively legal if 8 there are reasons for a greater deviation. 9 A couple of other important factors and fundamentally, 10 Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act, the Federal Voting 11 Rights Act, that law prohibits any practice or procedure 12 including redistricting plans that impair the ability of 13 the minority community to elect candidates of choice on an 14 equal basis with nonminority persons or communities. 15 Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act, we've talked about 16 before, is a process by which any electoral change 17 including redistricting requires clearance by the federal 18 government either by the United States District Court or 19 the Attorney General prior to its implementation. 20 There are five counties in Florida that are covered by 21 Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act. Those counties are 22 Collier, Hardee, Hendry, Hillsborough, and Monroe Counties. 23 Preclearance is obtained if the Attorney General does not 24 contest or object to a plan within 60 days of submission 25 or, in fact, approves the plan. The burden on the state or</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 14</p> <p>1 on the jurisdictions in that process is to show that the</p> <p>2 redistricting plans do not have the purpose and will not</p> <p>3 have the effect of denying or abridging the right to vote</p> <p>4 on account of race or color or minority or language</p> <p>5 minority group. That Section 5 analysis is also to some</p> <p>6 extent called a retrogression analysis.</p> <p>7 Mr. Chairman, and members, these are simply some of</p> <p>8 the concepts and principles. We look forward to working</p> <p>9 with you through the process in developing these and making</p> <p>10 these real. Thank you.</p> <p>11 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Thank you, Attorney Meros.</p> <p>12 Ladies and gentlemen, we're going to take a little</p> <p>13 deviation here and we have some special guests that are</p> <p>14 joining us as you can see. We have some students from</p> <p>15 Booker High School, government honor students.</p> <p>16 (Pause.)</p> <p>17 MS. SANDERS: Thank you for letting us join you today.</p> <p>18 I'm Nancy Sanders from Booker High School and these are my</p> <p>19 honors government students that I brought with me today.</p> <p>20 And they thought it would be very special if you would</p> <p>21 allow them to sing the national anthem, particularly in</p> <p>22 view of not only the events of the past week but to show</p> <p>23 their spirit, to show the fact they are behind the country.</p> <p>24 So often you hear bad things about young people and</p> <p>25 I'm here to make you know or let you know that most of</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 16</p> <p>1 County experienced the fastest rate of growth in the state</p> <p>2 of Florida with a 73.6 percent rate. The five fastest</p> <p>3 growing counties in terms of percentage rate of growth are</p> <p>4 Flagler, Sumpter, Collier, Wakulla and Osceola Counties.</p> <p>5 Jacksonville remains Florida's most populous city.</p> <p>6 Population of about 735,000. Jacksonville, Miami, Tampa,</p> <p>7 St. Petersburg and Hialeah are Florida's five most populous</p> <p>8 cities. Minority population in Florida, as a result of our</p> <p>9 growth, the African-American population in Florida has</p> <p>10 grown from 13.6 percent in 1990 to 14.6 in the state</p> <p>11 population in the year 2000. The Hispanic population has</p> <p>12 surpassed the African-American population as Florida's</p> <p>13 largest minority with a percentage of 16.8 percent of the</p> <p>14 state population.</p> <p>15 Median age in Florida has risen over the past ten</p> <p>16 years according to the 2000 census. The median age in the</p> <p>17 state of Florida is 38.7 years. Our most valuable resource</p> <p>18 are seniors age 65-plus. According to the 2000 census we</p> <p>19 have just over 2.8 million Floridians that are age 65 and</p> <p>20 above. This is an increase of over 400,000 since the 1990</p> <p>21 census. But the overall percentage of the state's</p> <p>22 population age 65 and above has decreased from 18.3 to</p> <p>23 17.6 percent.</p> <p>24 As Mr. Meros touched on briefly, each State House,</p> <p>25 State Senate, and Congressional district will have ideal</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 15</p> <p>1 these kids that you hear about are really good kids. So we</p> <p>2 wanted to take that opportunity. Also, thank you for</p> <p>3 having the public hearings around the state. Because the</p> <p>4 very fact that we are in this country, able to have public</p> <p>5 meetings speaks so much for itself and about the way of</p> <p>6 life we're trying to protect. Thank you very much.</p> <p>7 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Thank you. You're recognized</p> <p>8 and let's all stand.</p> <p>9 (National anthem.)</p> <p>10 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Thank you. Now we'll have Todd</p> <p>11 Thomson, the staff director of the House Redistricting</p> <p>12 Committee to give us a brief overview of census data.</p> <p>13 You're recognized, Mr. Thomson.</p> <p>14 MR. THOMSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Today I'd like</p> <p>15 to give you a brief overview of Florida's census and then a</p> <p>16 brief overview of the Sarasota area census.</p> <p>17 Florida's population is now just under 16 million</p> <p>18 people. This is growth of just over 3 million over the</p> <p>19 1990 census and Florida has grown at a rate of roughly 23.5</p> <p>20 percent. As a result of this growth, Florida gained two</p> <p>21 new Congressional seats and we now have a total of 25, an</p> <p>22 increase over 23 from 1990.</p> <p>23 Miami-Dade County is Florida's most populous county.</p> <p>24 The five most populous counties are listed; Miami-Dade,</p> <p>25 Broward, Palm Beach, Hillsborough and Pinellas. Flagler</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 17</p> <p>1 population and these populations have grown after the past</p> <p>2 ten years. In 1990 an ideal State House district would</p> <p>3 have about 108,000 people per district. In the year 2000,</p> <p>4 that has grown to just over 133,000 people per House</p> <p>5 district.</p> <p>6 A State Senate district in 1990 would have about</p> <p>7 323,500 people per State Senate district. In 2000, each</p> <p>8 State Senate district will have an ideal population of</p> <p>9 about 400,000. And in 1990 each Congressional district had</p> <p>10 a population of 562,518. For redistricting in 2002, each</p> <p>11 Congressional district will have a population of around</p> <p>12 639,295.</p> <p>13 Now I'll give an overview of Sarasota County and the</p> <p>14 surrounding area. According to the 2000 census, Sarasota</p> <p>15 County's population was just over 325,000. That's an</p> <p>16 increase of 17.3 percent and the city of Sarasota has a</p> <p>17 population of 52,715. Hardee County has a population of</p> <p>18 just under 27,000 according to the 2000 census. This is an</p> <p>19 increase of 38.2 percent over 1990.</p> <p>20 Charlotte County to the south, according to the 2000</p> <p>21 census, has a population of 141,627. This is an increase</p> <p>22 of 27.6 percent over 1990. Manatee County, directly to the</p> <p>23 north, population of just over 264,000. This is an</p> <p>24 increase of 24.7 percent over 1990. And DeSoto County,</p> <p>25 according to the 2000 census, DeSoto County's population is</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 18</p> <p>1 at 32,209. This is an increase of 35 percent over 1990.</p> <p>2 All this information and more can be found at the</p> <p>3 House and Senate redistricting web sites which is found on</p> <p>4 the sheets at the sign-in table. Thank you.</p> <p>5 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Thank you, Mr. Thomson. Now</p> <p>6 we'll move to the public testimony portion of the hearing</p> <p>7 and we're going to take Number 22 because of some</p> <p>8 circumstances. Number 22, Mr. Boone, first. If you could</p> <p>9 come up. Welcome to the public hearing.</p> <p>10 MR. BOONE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, members of the</p> <p>11 committee. And, again, thank you very much for coming to</p> <p>12 Sarasota and Sarasota County. My name is Jeffrey Boone.</p> <p>13 I'm a resident of Venice in Sarasota County. I'm here</p> <p>14 speaking both on behalf of the Venice Area Chamber of</p> <p>15 Commerce, I'm the immediate past president of the Venice</p> <p>16 Area Chamber of Commerce, I'm also speaking individually.</p> <p>17 I've been a resident of Venice and Sarasota County since</p> <p>18 1958.</p> <p>19 I am here to express our request that Senator</p> <p>20 Carlton's Senate district be left as is. It's been very</p> <p>21 effective, that district, over the past decade in serving</p> <p>22 the needs of Sarasota County and certainly it looks like</p> <p>23 from the statistical data that that district could be left</p> <p>24 as is without any real effect one way or the other in the</p> <p>25 overall balance as required in the redistricting process.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 20</p> <p>1 there would be -- should not appear to be any problem with</p> <p>2 maintaining the status quo in that regard.</p> <p>3 I've mentioned to some of you-all that maybe don't</p> <p>4 know, Charlotte Harbor is, as I understand it, even larger</p> <p>5 than Tampa Bay as far as a water body area. It's a</p> <p>6 significant environmental resource. It's in Charlotte</p> <p>7 County but the southern half of Sarasota County is very</p> <p>8 much connected, if you will, in several ways to Charlotte</p> <p>9 Harbor. And it's just essential, we believe, that the</p> <p>10 District 71 stay as is along with House District 70.</p> <p>11 With regard to our Congressional district,</p> <p>12 District 13, that's Representative Dan Miller's district,</p> <p>13 it would also be the Chamber's position and mine</p> <p>14 individually as well that that district remain as it is</p> <p>15 currently constituted.</p> <p>16 One final thing and just philosophically addressing</p> <p>17 this to all of you-all. I'm an attorney. I understand how</p> <p>18 the redistricting process works. When you-all return to</p> <p>19 Tallahassee and go through this process, I would</p> <p>20 respectfully request that the House and the Senate keep in</p> <p>21 mind one of the things that the President said last night.</p> <p>22 I thought that was a remarkable speech that our President</p> <p>23 gave to our country. And he pointed out that what the</p> <p>24 terrorists really hate about us more than anything else is</p> <p>25 the fact that we elect our leaders. We do not have</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 19</p> <p>1 Our two -- again, in the Venice area, our two -- we're</p> <p>2 actually served by two State House districts, District 70</p> <p>3 currently served by Representative Detert and District 71</p> <p>4 currently served by Representative Paul. This has also</p> <p>5 worked very well for our area, the Venice area, over the</p> <p>6 past decade.</p> <p>7 Sarasota County, geographically -- the city of</p> <p>8 Sarasota and the unincorporated area of Sarasota really</p> <p>9 represents the north half of Sarasota County. The southern</p> <p>10 half of Sarasota County is made up of incorporated Sarasota</p> <p>11 County but also the cities of Venice and North Port as well</p> <p>12 as the unincorporated but -- the community, if you will, of</p> <p>13 Englewood. Those three communities share a number of</p> <p>14 common concerns, a number of common issues. And with the</p> <p>15 State House District 71, it has been -- served our</p> <p>16 communities very well for those three areas I've talked</p> <p>17 about, Venice, North Port, and Englewood, along with the</p> <p>18 Charlotte County communities to be able to have a voice in</p> <p>19 Tallahassee.</p> <p>20 And there has been no problem at all with -- Senator</p> <p>21 Carlton served originally as a Representative of House</p> <p>22 District 70. And our two Representatives, if you will,</p> <p>23 have really done a good job of serving us in Tallahassee.</p> <p>24 And, again, from looking at the numbers on the back table</p> <p>25 of how the census is broken down, it does not appear that</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 21</p> <p>1 appointed leaders. We are a government of the people.</p> <p>2 And I certainly don't need to remind you-all of this,</p> <p>3 but please remember, if you will, that when you return to</p> <p>4 Tallahassee and go through the redistricting debates, you</p> <p>5 will be at the foundation level going through the process</p> <p>6 that the terrorists hate of us the most. I have an uncle</p> <p>7 who's buried in the U.S. Military Cemetery in Liege,</p> <p>8 Belgium. He gave his life during World War II. And for</p> <p>9 him and all people since that time, and unfortunately it</p> <p>10 looks like in the future, I respectfully request that in</p> <p>11 honor of them and all that have served that you-all please</p> <p>12 keep that in mind. Thank you very much.</p> <p>13 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Thank you. Now we'll go to card</p> <p>14 Number 1. In the lower right-hand corner of your card is a</p> <p>15 number. So speaker Number 1. Number 1.</p> <p>16 MR. CAPASSO: Good morning.</p> <p>17 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Welcome to the public hearing.</p> <p>18 MR. CAPASSO: Thank you. My name is Lane Capasso and</p> <p>19 I'm the current president of the Englewood Area Chamber of</p> <p>20 Commerce and I welcome the opportunity to speak to you and</p> <p>21 I appreciate it. I'm here specifically to talk about</p> <p>22 Congressional Districts 71 and 74. And look at the map,</p> <p>23 the second one in, will tell you what I want to talk about,</p> <p>24 the yellow and the purple areas on that.</p> <p>25 I'm speaking for our 780 some-odd members and also our</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 22</p> <p>1 boards of directors. Englewood is a community about 2 30 miles south of where we're sitting right now. And it is 3 a divided community, divided by county lines, it is divided 4 by phone companies, it is divided by fire department, it is 5 divided by, on and on and on. Water districts, we could 6 just go on and on and on.</p> <p>7 And I feel it is time that you have the opportunity to 8 at least unite us on one thing. And I would like to see 9 Englewood fall under one district, Jerry Paul's, and 10 District 71, and make this your chance to bring Englewood 11 under this one community. And I have a resolution from our 12 Chamber of Commerce to that effect. I'll leave it in the 13 back. I'll give it to someone emphasizing that. Thank you 14 very much for your time. Thank you.</p> <p>15 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Thank you. Speaker Number 2.</p> <p>16 DR. COY: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen, I'm 17 Dr. Bill Coy, from Rotonda, Charlotte County. Jeff Boone 18 talked about the Charlotte Harbor. It, indeed, is a 19 significant tributary. I'm going to talk today a little 20 bit about House Districts 71 and 74. And I'm a member and 21 past chair of the Englewood Area Planning and Advisory 22 Board. I'm chair of the government relations committee of 23 the Englewood Chamber of Commerce. Today I'm going to 24 speak as chair of the west Charlotte County Civic 25 Association. That's a consortium of 28 homeowners'</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 24</p> <p>1 four years. I'm within walking distance to the city of 2 North Port.</p> <p>3 My experience has been past executive director for the 4 North Port Chamber of Commerce and the past president for 5 the Englewood Chamber of Commerce. I've also worked in the 6 health care field with Englewood Community Hospital which 7 serves also North Port, Englewood, and South Venice. I'm 8 now with the Sun Coast Humane Society which serves the area 9 from Osprey down to the Elgibane Bridge (phonetic) and also 10 through North Port. So I'm familiar and have been very 11 active in these three communities for 14 years.</p> <p>12 I'm speaking today on behalf of the Government Affairs 13 Committee for the Englewood Chamber of Commerce and we're 14 asking -- actually, I have two requests for your 15 consideration. The Government Affairs Committee is asking 16 that state legislative District 71 please include Rotonda, 17 Cape Haze, Boca Grande, and Manasota Key areas which are 18 currently included in District 74.</p> <p>19 Geographically, these areas are more contiguous to the 20 Englewood community and its issues than they are to 21 District 74 which is predominantly located two counties 22 south. We have found over the years that this results in 23 the Representative being inaccessible and unfamiliar with 24 the issues of District 71. Rotonda, Cape Haze, Boca 25 Grande, and Manasota Key share transportation, economic</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 23</p> <p>1 associations, been in business since 1957 representing 2 about 18,000 people on the Cape Haze peninsula.</p> <p>3 What is the Cape Haze peninsula? The Cape Haze 4 peninsula generally in our minds runs from south Venice all 5 the way down to Boca Grande and including Boca Grande. To 6 the east is, of course, the Charlotte Harbor and to the 7 west in the Gulf of Mexico. We include the barrier islands 8 in this. We're very anxious to consider this as a region 9 rather than anything.</p> <p>10 And with that in mind, we would not like to have the 11 Cape Haze peninsula area as we know it divided between 71 12 and 74. Seventy-one is -- has been very instrumental in 13 this as well as 74. And we appreciate both of our House of 14 Representatives doing their job. I think it would be a 15 little bit easier and having talked with Jeff Kottkamp, the 16 fragments that he has along the Cape Haze peninsula perhaps 17 would make it easier for him if he went over into 71 or 18 that area of his own, 71. So with all that said, I wish to 19 have all the Cape Haze peninsula in District 71. Thank 20 you.</p> <p>21 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Thank you. Number 3.</p> <p>22 MS. EDMUNDSON: Good morning. Thank you for being 23 here. It really does make a big difference for us in south 24 county. My name is Nita Edmundson. I have lived in North 25 Port for ten years and I've lived in Englewood for the last</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 25</p> <p>1 development, health care issues, emergency management 2 issues with the Englewood community. So the first request 3 is basically that we incorporate those areas, the Rotonda, 4 the Cape Haze peninsula, Manasota Key in District 71.</p> <p>5 The second request, in speaking for North Port and 6 Englewood, is that none of North Port be removed from 7 District 71 and we understand the issues in allocating 8 apportionment equally but that is a concern for us. The 9 Englewood community is unincorporated and located in 10 Sarasota and Charlotte Counties. However, North Port is 11 incorporated in Sarasota County and abuts the Englewood 12 community and we share the fire and flood control, our 13 health and human service needs are all one and the same.</p> <p>14 So we feel that any portion of North Port divided or 15 removed from District 71 will greatly affect our 16 communication efforts with our State Representative. So 17 thank you very much.</p> <p>18 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Thank you. Number 4.</p> <p>19 MS. HAYES: Good morning. Good morning, Senate 20 Chairman Webster, House Chairman Byrd, all the House 21 members and Senators, just so glad to be here this morning. 22 My name is Donna Hayes and I'm the immediate past chairman 23 of the Republican party, Manatee County. And I'm speaking 24 to you on behalf of the Republican party as well as a 25 private citizen of Manatee County.</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 26</p> <p>1 Before I begin, I first want to take a moment to thank 2 the Republican control Florida Legislature for providing 3 this opportunity during which the public has a forum to 4 address the local issues. Since each county understands 5 its needs and concerns best, this public hearing should 6 prove to be most beneficial to the decision process. In 7 addition, it's a new experience to see so many of you here 8 this morning. This has not been the case in the past. 9 You've been holding open meetings and hearings with 10 maps and software available to the public in various state 11 locations and providing an opportunity to the public. The 12 Republican controlled Legislature deserves to be 13 complimented and I do congratulate you. 14 Since Manatee County is bordered to the north by a 15 very large body of water and a huge bridge, the Sunshine 16 Skyway, it makes great sense for us to associate ourselves 17 with Sarasota County to the south. Sarasota and Manatee 18 Counties have very similar concerns such as environment, 19 tourism, education, senior citizen population as well as a 20 shared airport. Therefore, when the boundaries are drawn I 21 would urge you to continue this association. In my past 22 position as chairman of the Manatee Republican party, I've 23 had numerous occasions to refer residents to U.S. 24 Congressman Dan Miller's office. 25 Since the Congressman represents all of Manatee County</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 28</p> <p>1 Since Manatee County experienced a 24.7 percent 2 increase in growth during the past ten years, it is 3 imperative that we have at least one House district that 4 represents only Manatee County. 5 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: You have 15 seconds. 6 MS. HAYES: In closing, when the committee considers 7 combining Manatee County with another county, I urge you to 8 strongly consider not only the similarities with Sarasota 9 but also the proven record of cooperation and progress 10 during the last ten years. 11 Thank you from this opportunity to address the 12 committee and I want to leave by saying just one last 13 thing. We are happy just the way things are. Thank you. 14 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Thank you. Number 5. 15 MR. LACHEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and honorable 16 committee members. We're glad you're here under such 17 difficult times in our nation's history. I'm Jim Lachen. 18 I'm chairman of the Manatee County Democratic party. The 19 loyal opposition to the previous speaker. (Laughter.) 20 I'm a lifelong resident of Manatee County, born and 21 raised there and been a Democrat all my life. The Manatee 22 County Democratic Executive Committee will not be 23 presenting you with maps but at this time will be advising 24 you of our opinions on how our district should be changed. 25 First, the 13th Congressional District, we believe</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 27</p> <p>1 he understands the concerns of our county in the area of 2 environment, veteran issues, education, transportation and 3 many, many other concerns. By keeping our county under one 4 Congressman in District 13, unity prevails and common 5 concerns surface. 6 Legislators, I urge you not to combine our concerns 7 with the county to the north or to the east and possibly 8 blending our representation. Likewise, Manatee County 9 enjoys having most of our county in the same Florida Senate 10 district. Senator McKay has always attended to our needs 11 and has been available to listen to us. Again, our 12 concerns are similar to Sarasota rather than a more urban 13 county. 14 Manatee County Senate District 21 already includes 15 Hillsborough. There is no need to put a third county into 16 Senate District 26. In Manatee County there are three 17 House districts representing us. Although two of the House 18 districts represent other counties as well as Manatee 19 County, District 68 is comprised of only Manatee County. 20 Representative Mark Flanagan serves as House member in that 21 district and he has always been concerned with local issues 22 regardless of which district you did reside. He knows the 23 concerns of his constituents in the area of transportation, 24 education, environment, even local issues like building 25 heights and other issues as well.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 29</p> <p>1 that presently as set up it does not meet the requirements 2 that the courts have set forth since the last 3 redistricting. The court has said that an important factor 4 in redistricting is the socioeconomics of the reason is 5 very important. Here are some of the reasons we believe 6 that our county should be placed in a different 7 Congressional district. Manatee County's population is 8 made up of people whose average age is older than some in 9 the southern counties are. 10 The average income of the working population is also 11 lower. Manatee County has a strong interest in Tampa Bay 12 as we share a coastline with our north counties. We are an 13 active member of the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council 14 and we have a very active port at Port Manatee which 15 services crew ships as well as general cargo vessels. 16 Manatee County has a large investment in agricultural 17 needs such as tomatoes, citrus, and livestock where 18 counties to our south do not necessarily have that. Our 19 industrial base is a blend of diverse industries with 20 Tropicana products as the largest. Where Tropicana is in 21 the citrus industry, we have a strong boat manufacturing 22 industry with Wellcraft Marine being the largest. 23 We also share with our northern counties phosphate 24 mining. Our neighbors to the south do not have concerns in 25 their needs. For this reason, we believe the counties</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 30</p> <p>1 should be placed in a Congressional district that meets 2 these needs. It is our belief the district should be 3 centered on the area of that of State Senate District 26 of 4 Senator McKay.</p> <p>5 It is our belief that the State Senate District 26 6 meets the new requirements that the court has set down. 7 The districts should then be expanded to the east and north 8 to meet the population requirements and the socioeconomic 9 needs of the district. This configuration is similar to 10 our previous Congressional district history in which we 11 were included with Hardee and DeSoto Counties and Polk.</p> <p>12 Having stated my feelings on a Congressional district, 13 we believe the State Senate district, District 26, is in 14 good shape and should stay the way it is presently 15 configured. We believe that it meets all the needs of the 16 court's requirements. The House districts that are in 17 Manatee County are 55, 67, and 68. Two of these districts 18 do not meet the new population requirements by being short, 19 55 and 68, while the third is overpopulated, 67.</p> <p>20 We believe this could be remedied by expanding the two 21 underpopulated districts into the overpopulated district. 22 It would meet the socioeconomic needs by moving 68 to the 23 south and 55 more into the city of Braden (sic). 24 District 7 then would cover the eastern portion of the 25 county.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 32</p> <p>1 District 70, this district needs almost 7,000 residents 2 added. We believe these districts should come from the 3 districts to the south of District 70.</p> <p>4 Senate District 26, this district needs more than 5 8,000 residents. We believe the district should be 6 expanded to the east. Congressional District 13, the 7 Chamber believes it is in the best interest of both Manatee 8 and Sarasota Counties to keep these counties within the 9 same Congressional district. We are one large economic 10 marketplace. We work closely together. We have vital 11 interests, similar. And it's very important that we stay 12 together. Thank you very much.</p> <p>13 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Thank you. Number 7. 14 MS. WRIGHT: Thank you. My name is Glenda Wright and 15 I serve as Congressman Dan Miller's chief of staff and 16 district director. Mr. Miller could not be here today and 17 asked me to deliver the following statement from him.</p> <p>18 I would like to thank the leadership of the Florida 19 State Legislature for offering these hearings early enough 20 in the process to get public input prior to the actual work 21 of drawing new State and Congressional district lines. 22 Hearings such as this will help show those murdering 23 terrorists that democracy will not be defeated.</p> <p>24 It has been my pleasure to represent all of Manatee 25 and Sarasota Counties in Congress since 1992. I also</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 31</p> <p>1 We at the Manatee Democratic party know that this 2 committee will be fair and open to the public as possible 3 in this process. We hope that you will take our thoughts 4 into your deliberations and give them careful 5 considerations. If you have any questions, I'd be glad to 6 answer them. Thank you for your time and deliberations.</p> <p>7 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Thank you. Speaker Number 6. 8 MR. RICHARDS: Good morning. My name is Rex Richards. 9 I'm president of the Greater Sarasota Chamber of Commerce. 10 With me this morning is Bill Couch, our senior vice 11 president of public affairs.</p> <p>12 As redistricting takes place in Sarasota County we 13 need to assure the citizens that reasonable and cohesive 14 Congressional Florida House and Florida Senate districts 15 emerge. It is not in the best interest of either political 16 party or the citizens of Sarasota County to be linked with 17 the predominantly Democratic districts in other parts of 18 the state. This will only spread out the majority of 19 Republican votes that Sarasota County has and could result 20 in distorted districts statewide.</p> <p>21 Here are some specific suggestions that could guide 22 you. Florida House District 69, this district needs almost 23 18,000 residents added. We believe it is in Sarasota 24 County's best interest to expand District 69 to the east to 25 include precincts currently in District 67. Florida House</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 33</p> <p>1 represent a small part of Charlotte and Hillsborough 2 Counties. A member of Congress must be able to stand on 3 the floor of the House and talk about issues that relate 4 directly to his or her constituency. In order to do that 5 effectively, a Congressional district must have communities 6 of similar interest, and the current Congressional district 7 meets that criteria.</p> <p>8 People in District 13 travel throughout the district 9 to work, attend social and cultural events, attend school, 10 and participate in community service projects. It is 11 essential that both Manatee and Sarasota Counties remain 12 intact individually in a new Congressional district. Of 13 equal importance is the need for the Congressional district 14 to remain virtually unchanged. The population figures 15 support this concept since the number of people, a new 16 district would have to give up is very small.</p> <p>17 Here are a few of the hundreds of federal issues that 18 affect Manatee and Sarasota jointly: Longboat Key. This 19 world-famous beach community straddles two counties. 20 Federal issues of tourism, beach renourishment, and FEMA 21 coordination are seamless between the counties. If parts 22 of Longboat Key are in different Congressional districts, 23 it will hamper coordination, perhaps at a time of extreme 24 emergency.</p> <p>25 Sarasota/Bradenton Airport. This airport also</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 34</p> <p>1 straddles two counties. There are numerous federal issues 2 that are addressed at the Congressional level. I believe 3 it is very important to keep both communities in the same 4 district to provide continuity. In light of the recent 5 tragedy, it is even more important than ever that the 6 airport be represented by one member of Congress. 7 Water quality issues. The current 13th District is 8 essentially a Gulf Coast community with a united front 9 against threats to drinking water from phosphate mining and 10 sugar development. Rumors of stretching the district 11 east/west cause concern about pitting areas of the district 12 against each other which would hamper the effectiveness of 13 a member of Congress. 14 Economic development. The federal government has long 15 recognized the fact that Sarasota and Manatee are joined at 16 the hip. The Census Bureau classifies this area as the 17 Sarasota/Bradenton metropolitan statistical area. It is a 18 recognition of the strong bond between the communities. As 19 a matter of fact, it was this data that helped Bradenton 20 earn the recognition as the best place to live in America 21 by Money magazine. 22 Statistics show that migration from Sarasota to 23 Manatee County and vice versa is over five times greater 24 than migration to counties north of Manatee County. There 25 is a synergy between the two counties with regards to arts</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 36</p> <p>1 MR. BERRYMAN: Good morning, Mr. Chairman, members of 2 your panel. My name is Rue Berryman, Chairman of the North 3 Port City Commission. I've lived in North Port since '87. 4 I've owned property since '79, having retired from the 5 federal government after 40 years, and I see a lot of 6 growth in this area and we're going to continue to be 7 growing. All the districts will be growing and expanding 8 of course. This is one of the greatest places, I think, in 9 the country right now to be showing growth. And we're 10 going to continue to grow. 11 I would like to see the people stay the way they are. 12 Representative Detert, Representative Paul, they're doing 13 an outstanding job of what they have to do and with the way 14 they continue to do. And Senator Carlton with her work 15 she's doing, we need to continue those efforts like we're 16 doing right now. And I would like to just hope and pray 17 that we continue to do that. 18 With the country faced with a disaster that took place 19 in New York and Washington, D.C. just on the 11th of this 20 month, this country is in real trouble, I would imagine, to 21 get the country rolling again, our economy built up again. 22 And listening to the President last night, we've all got to 23 come together as a group, work together, hold our heads 24 high. We're proud to be Americans in this country and 25 every one of us needs to just put our shoulders to the</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 35</p> <p>1 and culture and this is an integral part of our economy. 2 Our two counties grew up together and we share the bond of 3 the growing pangs of the last industry. In fact, the 4 counties were one until the 1920s. 5 The south campus of the University of South Florida, 6 where we are, the largest growing university in our county, 7 sits on the borderline of Sarasota and Manatee Counties. 8 In the interest of time -- 9 (Timer rang.) 10 Bingo. (Laughter.) In the interest of time, I have 11 cited only a few of the numerous issues in which Sarasota 12 and Manatee share a common philosophy and voice. My 13 constituents had expressed a strong desire to keep the 14 district intact and I could not agree more. When you are 15 drawing the lines for the Congressional district that 16 includes our area, please consider these comments and my 17 fervent request that Manatee and Sarasota Counties remain 18 whole and in the same Congressional district. It is to the 19 advantage of all concerned on the Federal level, the State 20 level, and most important, on the level of our 21 constituents, that we keep our family together. Thank you. 22 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Thank you. Number 8. 23 MS. BERRYMAN: My concerns have already been covered. 24 Thank you. 25 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Thank you. Number 9.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 37</p> <p>1 wheel and just do more work than we're doing. And with the 2 work that's being done right now, I ask you to continue the 3 way you're doing it. And I thank you for the opportunity 4 to speak this morning. 5 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Thank you. Number 10. 6 MR. KICHEN: Good morning, Mr. Chairman. My name is 7 Lee Kichen. I am the president of the Sarasota County 8 Veterans' Commission which is an umbrella group of the 9 country's veterans' service organization, military and 10 patriotic associations. 11 From a veteran's standpoint, I believe that Manatee 12 and Sarasota Counties should remain in the same 13 Congressional district. As stated earlier, these counties 14 have a large senior citizen population. The veteran 15 population does, in fact, mirror those demographics. In 16 Manatee County there are over 33,000 veterans receiving 17 benefits from the Federal Department of Veterans Affairs. 18 Sarasota County has 51,000 receiving benefits. The annual 19 amount of these federal benefits exceed over \$70 million. 20 In addition to these recipients, we estimate there are 21 another 70,000 veterans or their survivors who are 22 potential recipients of federal dollars. On top of that 23 number, there are over 5,000 military retirees in the 24 bi-county area. These two counties have the largest per 25 capita population of elderly veterans in the nation. Our</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 38</p> <p>1 veteran population is overwhelmingly representative of the 2 World War II and Korean War eras.</p> <p>3 As a consequence, these organizations, the 4 organization which I represent today, have worked 5 tirelessly at a regional level to secure veterans' benefits 6 and services. Recent history shows that through the 7 efforts of a single Congressional office we have been able 8 to secure VA outpatient clinics for both Sarasota and 9 Manatee Counties. In addition to serving those who served 10 America, these clinics bring nearly \$3 million of federal 11 expenditures to the local economy.</p> <p>12 Most recently, the veterans of communities of Sarasota 13 and Manatee County came together to work for a regional 14 state veterans' nursing home which will be built in part by 15 federal nursing home grant dollars in Charlotte County. 16 The next logical step will be a full-service regional 17 specialty clinic in the bi-county area and we have been 18 working tirelessly with the staff of the 13th Congressional 19 District.</p> <p>20 In the past three years, Sarasota County Veterans' 21 Commission and the Manatee County Veterans' Council have 22 met in a joint session with Congressman Miller and his 23 staff. These sessions have been extraordinarily productive 24 for all. In securing federal benefits and services for 25 this area, we believe that regionalism works and should</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 40</p> <p>1 is east of I-75 and is one of the fastest-growing areas in 2 the state and is definitely the fastest-growing area in 3 Manatee or nearby Sarasota County. Indeed, since the 1990 4 census, the areas east of I-75 have grown from a population 5 of 16,295 to 34,225 as reported in the 2000 census.</p> <p>6 In fact, in the 5,500 acres of Lakewood Ranch alone, 7 there are 4,861 residents, 28 percent of whom are under the 8 age of 18. I feel it is vitally important for those of us 9 in this rapidly-growing area to maintain our Florida House 10 district. We need strong leadership in this area to 11 monitor the growth and the needs rapid growth might 12 require. There are lands use, road improvement, education, 13 environmental issues before our current Legislature. And 14 without resident representation, it is possible our 15 concerns and needs will not be met.</p> <p>16 Although some of the areas with rapid growth are 17 actually in Sarasota County, the bulk of this new growth is 18 centered in Manatee. Perhaps this explains why, according 19 to the 2000 census, Manatee County surpassed Sarasota for 20 the first time in growth. And although some have referred 21 to the east Manatee area as a bedroom community for the 22 Tampa/St. Petersburg area, the 2000 census reported that 23 only 10 percent of east county residents drive, as we call 24 it, "over the bridge." Individuals may drive to a job, but 25 they also drive back home.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 39</p> <p>1 continue to work and we should continue to keep Sarasota 2 and Manatee Counties in the same Congressional District.</p> <p>3 Putting Sarasota and Manatee Counties into two 4 separate districts denies reality and perception. Along 5 the University Parkway corridor residents of Manatee County 6 have Sarasota addresses. Many live in Sarasota County and 7 work in Manatee County. Others live in Sarasota County and 8 work in Manatee County.</p> <p>9 Veterans living in one county, as an example, are 10 members of veterans' organizations and military 11 associations in the other county. You have a difficult 12 task ahead of you. It is my hope that the current 13 Congressional district remains intact. Thank you very 14 much.</p> <p>15 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Thank you. Number 11.</p> <p>16 MS. TUPPER: I'm just a concerned citizen and not as 17 eloquent as some of the previous speakers. Good morning. 18 My name is Mary Tupper and I'm a registered voter of 19 Manatee County. I, like many others here, am concerned 20 with the possible redistricting of Florida House Districts 21 67 and 68, Florida Senate District 26, and Congressional 22 District 13.</p> <p>23 I'm a resident of Florida House District 67 which 24 represents eastern Manatee County. I am most concerned in 25 keeping this representation. This area for the most part</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 41</p> <p>1 Residents of east Manatee County live, shop, play, go 2 to church and school in east Manatee and they expect their 3 Representatives to do the same. Many of the reasons I have 4 mentioned concerning the importance of keeping Florida 5 House District 67 in place are the same reasons I cite for 6 keeping Congressional District 13 within its current 7 boundaries.</p> <p>8 Congressman Dan Miller and his office stand ready to 9 assist in any manner, large or small. Congressman Miller 10 has paid particular attention to the demographic makeup of 11 the Manatee/Sarasota area, its minority populations as well 12 as its diverse age groups and has made himself a friend to 13 all of these groups. He has studied issues germane to the 14 area taking into consideration its economic base as well as 15 its constituents.</p> <p>16 In addition to his much broader scope of duties, he's 17 never too busy to assist with a small concern. As I told 18 my son Brian once when Brian accompanied the Congressman to 19 Washington, D.C. for a week of educational seminars, When a 20 constituent comes to you, no concern is too small. Brian 21 was impressed by that statement as was I.</p> <p>22 But perhaps most impressive of all was the fact that 23 Congressman Miller truly makes his statement a practice. 24 That's the kind of relationship that is important to keep 25 and that kind of relationship can only exist if the</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 42</p> <p>1 Representative is a vital part of the area served. 2 Although I don't live in State Representative Mark 3 Flanagan's District 68, I am a resident of Bradenton, I 4 have called on him many times for assistance with a 5 particular problem or concern and have found he and his 6 office ready to assist. I also reside in Senator John 7 McKay's District 26 and have found him to be accessible and 8 his office ready to assist in rendering aid or advice. Let 9 me skip on here. 10 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: You have 30 seconds. 11 MS. TUPPER: Okay. Well, then let me just say, Then 12 let's keep everything the way it is because I'm perfectly 13 happy. Thank you very much. 14 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Thank you. Number 12. 15 MR. SORRELL: Good morning, Mr. Chairman, members of 16 the commission. My name is Bill Sorrell and I'm a member 17 of the Sarasota/Manatee Common Cause chapter. And if I 18 might be permitted a personal remark before I begin my 19 testimony, our national Common Cause president, Scott 20 Hoshbagger (phonetic), will be in Sarasota tomorrow morning 21 for a town meeting at the Selby Auditorium beginning at 22 10:00. And we certainly hope that anyone interested in 23 reform and better government will be there. It should be 24 very worthwhile. 25 Now you've heard testimony from Common Cause and the</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 44</p> <p>1 government the way we want it run, or at least that's the 2 way it's supposed to work. 3 So why don't we elevate politicians to the same level 4 of perception as, say, athletes or musicians or actors? 5 Could it be that sometimes they don't seem to be 6 representing us at all but rather their own and other 7 special interests? Maybe that's one reason so few of us 8 don't even bother to vote anymore. How often we hear the 9 lament, My vote doesn't mean anything, the candidate with 10 the most money almost always wins and then they have to 11 dance with the ones that brought them. 12 Now I don't mean to sound cynical, just disappointed 13 and worried as our beloved democracy seems to be slipping 14 away from us and at a time when we have never been more 15 grateful to have the great good fortune to live in a 16 democracy. And I do not point a finger at the politician 17 or the contributor. They are simply playing according to 18 the rules of the game. Common Cause is trying to change 19 the rules. 20 In the meantime, how are we going to feel about your 21 credibility when you've finished this redistricting 22 process? Will we be saying, Well done. And, Thank you for 23 representing us so well? Or will we see you looking out 24 for yourself and your party first the way it has always 25 been every ten years? And will you hear the people sigh</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 43</p> <p>1 League of Women Voters asking you to go about redistricting 2 the state in a fair and impartial manner, making the 3 process open to the public and the media, drawing compact 4 districts composed of contiguous territory and as equal in 5 population as possible. Districts that will not dilute the 6 voting strength of any racial, ethnic, or minority group, 7 will not favor any person or political party, and will be 8 single-member districts including 40 State Senate districts 9 and 120 State House districts. 10 As you know, Common Cause and the League of Women 11 Voters are working to place two Constitutional amendments 12 on the ballot for 2002. They would create an independent 13 citizen-based commission responsible for reapportionment 14 and setting standards that the Commission would follow in 15 the redistricting process. This would eliminate the most 16 serious flaw in the current system, the obvious conflict of 17 interest that exists when the Legislature draws its own 18 boundary lines. 19 I agree with everything in the petition that calls for 20 those amendments except possibly the title, People Over 21 Politics. Now I'm one of a possibly dwindling number of 22 people who do not consider politics a dirty word and do not 23 consider politicians a derogatory term. I think politics 24 can and should be a noble profession. Politicians are, 25 after all, those we choose to represent us and run our</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 45</p> <p>1 and say, It was the same old thing, politics as usual. 2 It's up to you. We will be watching and listening and 3 wishing you well. 4 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Thank you for coming. Ladies 5 and gentlemen, we now have, I understand, the chairman of 6 the Manatee County Commission who would like to say 7 greetings to the public hearing. Welcome. 8 MR. McCLASH: Thank you. My name is Joe McClash. I'm 9 the chairman of the County Commission of Manatee County. 10 And we respect as far as somebody did a pretty good job 11 about ten years ago and we kind of like things almost the 12 way they are today. So we understand you have to do some 13 adjustments. There's a lot of common threads that you've 14 heard about -- between Sarasota and Manatee Counties. As a 15 matter of fact, this is where we hold our metropolitan 16 planning organization meetings where both Sarasota and 17 Manatee Counties come together and serve the regional needs 18 for transportation, allocate federal dollars. And so 19 that's one part. 20 I'm also chairman of the West Coast Inland 21 Navigational District. This is a district that takes -- 22 Manatee County, Sarasota County, Charlotte County and Lee 23 County and I serve as chairman of that. And we provide for 24 the navigational needs which is also now the transportation 25 link very vital to our communities. The Peace River Water</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 46</p> <p>1 Supply Authority is another regional aspect that Sarasota, 2 Manatee, Charlotte, and DeSoto Counties have come together 3 to jointly really try to take care of some of the water 4 needs. So, again, that common thread is there. 5 Natural Estuary Program, Sarasota Bay, is a Manatee 6 County/Sarasota County program where it straddles both 7 counties and is a federal program that's helped improved 8 the water quality and really was an important step when 9 both counties came together. 10 The airport, you've heard of the water supply actually 11 where Manatee County sells about 10 million gallons or more 12 a day to Sarasota County as a contract serving their 13 growing needs. The area code, we just won a fight with the 14 Public Service Commission, as you probably know, where the 15 941 area code will remain for Manatee, Sarasota, and 16 Charlotte Counties, another common tie. 17 And when you look at the partnership for growth, we 18 share a commonality along the borders with Sarasota and 19 Manatee Counties and local roads and we really are one 20 community and we hope that you respect that and those are 21 my brief comments. And we thank you for being here today. 22 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Thank you. Number 13. 23 MR. EALAHAN: Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, 24 good morning. My name is Bill Ealahan. I live in North 25 Port, Florida. I'm also a member of North Port Economic</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 48</p> <p>1 which includes Englewood. These areas have common concerns 2 such as growth management, utilities expansion, storm water 3 drainage, annexation, transportation, and public safety. 4 Maintaining the present makeup of legislative District 71 5 as a core will help to facilitate cooperation between and 6 among the various political units that comprise legislative 7 District 71 as it is known today. Thank you for your 8 consideration of our request and we wish you goodwill and 9 good luck in your deliberations. Thank you. 10 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Thank you. Number 14. 11 MR. MATTHEWS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm 12 especially thankful to be here today presenting on behalf 13 of the city of North Port and it shows and it proves that 14 the business of America still goes on regardless of what 15 happened September 11th. 16 My name is Gene Matthews and I've been a resident of 17 North Port for 30 years. During those 30 years North Port 18 has experienced a great number of changes. In the '60s and 19 '70s North Port was known as North Port Charlotte and quite 20 literally it was considered to be North Port Charlotte 21 which is in Charlotte County and not Sarasota. In fact, 22 when I first became a member of the school board, one of 23 the managers asked me how I became a member of the Sarasota 24 County School Board because North Port was in Charlotte 25 County. That was a chilling thing for a resident of North</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 47</p> <p>1 Development Advisory Board, the Englewood Area Planning 2 Advisory Board, the Sarasota County Community Action 3 Advisory Board. I've had some involvement as an advisor, 4 one of the high-paying jobs that one receives. 5 As I stated in my introduction, I'm a member and I 6 live in North Port. And some people forget where North 7 Port is. In fact, I don't know how many of you folks have 8 been through, driven through, around North Port. But North 9 Port is a place that's growing and growing tremendously. 10 There are approximately, not approximately, the other day 11 this figure from the Board of Elections, 14,581 registered 12 voters in the city of North Port. That's 1300, almost 1400 13 voters registered, more than those in the city of Venice. 14 There are 4362 youngsters in grades K through 12 in 15 the city of North Port. There are 1400 preschool kids in 16 the city of North Port. The total population is 22,797. 17 Projected to reach 32,000 by the year 2010. North Port is 18 a part of District 71 and we are a rapidly-growing 19 community as I just stated. And why am I here? I'm here 20 to encourage you to maintain legislative District 71 as a 21 core recognizing that Cape Haze has to be considered in the 22 future and possibly become, hopefully become, a part of 23 legislative District 71. 24 The present makeup of legislative District 71 involves 25 Charlotte County, North Port, and south Sarasota County</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 49</p> <p>1 Port. 2 North Port was incorporated in 1959 with 23 citizens 3 and a commission of five. And all the employees -- and 4 they are all employees of General Development 5 Corporation -- I'm sure many of you have heard of General 6 Development. At that time North Port was a strong mayor 7 form of government with little or no assets and relied 8 almost entirely on the General Development Corp. for city 9 services, we were a company town. Years later, referendum 10 changed that and we became a manager-type government and 11 then we started to reorganize. 12 Part of that reorganization was the fact that we can 13 no longer be an island isolated in the south of Sarasota 14 County. Next major event was the bankruptcy of the General 15 Development Corporation causing a strangled-held hat 16 (sic) on North Port to disappear. When all the property 17 GDC held on the block was sold off the free market system 18 was now able to shape our future. You can see this as you 19 drive down Toledo Bay, Sumpter Boulevard and along U.S. 41. 20 The city now has two elementary schools, a new combination 21 high school which just opened this August, by the way, with 22 18 portables. 23 In February 2002 there will be a groundbreaking for 24 our new middle school just a few months away and a third 25 elementary school will be opening in the year 2004. What</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 50</p> <p>1 does all this have to do with redistricting you're asking, 2 right? This little history lessen. North Florida is 3 striving to become part of Sarasota County as this is where 4 our future lies. This city has been directed by others for 5 so many years that has been held back from joining our 6 greater Sarasota community. We cannot join this greater 7 community if our state representation is from different 8 areas with a different constituency and structure.</p> <p>9 We are very disturbed to hear the possibility exists 10 for North Port to be divided into two areas of 11 representation. North Port is one of the most dynamic 12 communities on the west coast of Florida and we feel it is 13 not in the best interest of better government service to 14 divide this community. We are adding over 1,000 homes a 15 year in this small area.</p> <p>16 To sum up, North Port wants its state representation 17 to stay the same. North Port would like not to be a super 18 minority constituency in any redistricting. District 71 19 works well with Jerry Paul. Our Senate district with Lisa 20 Carlton works very well. And we are very happy and well 21 served. North Port absolutely, and I say absolutely, does 22 not want to be split as a community between two or more 23 state Representatives. North Port needs one Representative 24 voice in Tallahassee and be one with Sarasota County and 25 its state Representatives. I thank you for this</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 52</p> <p>1 southwest Florida with communities of interest shared 2 commonly with their neighboring west coast counties and I'm 3 certain that you will hear that position and you have heard 4 that position expressed by many other speakers today.</p> <p>5 There will be other issues that arise similar to the 6 ones that affect the Englewood area which is partially in 7 Sarasota County and partially in Charlotte County. The 8 Englewood community is divided between House Districts 71 9 and 74. The dividing line between these two districts does 10 not coincide with the Sarasota/Charlotte County line nor 11 any other political, geographical service. House District 12 71 is more compact geographically and confined to Sarasota 13 and Charlotte Counties.</p> <p>14 House District 74 is spread through small and/or less 15 populous portions of Sarasota, Charlotte, and Lee Counties 16 with a bulk of the population in Lee County. An example of 17 this is -- the heart of that district is in Cape Coral, 18 Honorable Jeff Kottkamp can vouch for it, and it goes all 19 the way up to the Venice Airport through Englewood and it's 20 really not a well-defined district. It would seem 21 therefore that a redistricting scheme that would place the 22 entire Englewood area consisting of the Cape Haze peninsula 23 within a single House of Representative district would make 24 the most sense.</p> <p>25 And finally, I'd like to note on a recent Board of</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 51</p> <p>1 opportunity.</p> <p>2 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Thank you. Number 15.</p> <p>3 MR. MILLS: Honorable Chairman, and members of the 4 committee, again, I'm Dave Mills, chairman of the Board of 5 County Commissioners, Sarasota County. Sarasota County 6 respectfully urges the Florida Legislature to establish 7 legislative and Congressional districts that keep southwest 8 Florida counties aligned together with their contiguous 9 west coast counties and communities of interests and not be 10 included in Congressional districts that extend across 11 Florida from Florida's southwest counties.</p> <p>12 We consider the continued alignment of west coast 13 counties to be in the best interest of the citizens of 14 southwest Florida and specifically for Sarasota County for 15 the following reasons: Sarasota and neighboring Manatee 16 County have been included in Congressional District 13 and 17 have been well served by Representatives elected to serve 18 the district. Congressional District 13 has demonstrated 19 that it is geographically compact and economically and 20 politically cohesive with no history of thwarting minority 21 group interest.</p> <p>22 Existing District 13 respects existing political 23 boundaries and shares topographical features designed with 24 strict adherence to equal population, one person, one vote 25 rule. Sarasota and Manatee Counties are located in</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 53</p> <p>1 County Commissioners' meeting, Sarasota County adopted 2 Resolution No. 2001-218 setting forth the position I've 3 described to you today. I appreciate very much, again, 4 your being here and the opportunity to speak. And tourism 5 is down just a little bit in Sarasota County. If you could 6 stay over for a few days, we'd love to have you. Thank 7 you.</p> <p>8 (Laughter.)</p> <p>9 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Thank you. Number 16.</p> <p>10 MS. MATHIS: Good morning. I'm Julie Mathis, the 11 executive director of the Charlotte County Chamber of 12 Commerce representing 1170 businesses with more than 15,000 13 employees. The Chamber's board of directors at its 14 August 25th meeting voted unanimously to request that you 15 consider redistricting plans that assure that southwest 16 Florida representatives to the Florida Legislature and the 17 U.S. Congress reside in southwest Florida.</p> <p>18 Southwest Florida is a unique community. Our 19 demographics indicate that we're a homogenous region 20 encompassing a large population of senior citizens and we 21 will continue to grow with aging baby boomers. Over the 22 years communities in southwest Florida have developed a 23 cooperative approach to reviewing and solving issues within 24 our region. We work very well together on economic 25 development, tourism, and transportation initiatives. We</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 54</p> <p>1 believe this cooperation can only be enhanced by preserving 2 local representation in the legislative bodies. Thank you. 3 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Thank you. Number 17. (Pause.) 4 Number 18. 5 MS. HORNE: I'm Nancy Horne from Manatee County 6 speaking as a private citizen. And most of my points have 7 been covered by other speakers so I won't go on with them. 8 But I am in favor of a committee, bipartisan committee, 9 being formed that does not favor one party or another. And 10 I remember hearing Toni Jennings speak a year and a half 11 ago and people were talking about this committee and she 12 said, Now wait and watch us. I think we'll be very fair. 13 So we all are watching you and we hope you'll be very 14 fair. And you do have an awesome responsibility. Thank 15 you for being here today. 16 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Thank you. Number 19. 17 MR. MINNICH: Good morning. I'm Tom Minnich, chairman 18 of the Southwest County Alliance of Homeowners' 19 Associations representing 27 associations and probably 20 10,000 people in the Englewood area. I usually speak from 21 a prepared script but that's primarily because I sometimes 22 have difficulty remembering what I said exactly. So I'm 23 going to tell you a little story maybe that will include 24 some of the areas that have not already been covered. 25 When Representative Jerry Paul from District 71 was</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 56</p> <p>1 74. The whole Englewood area should be out of District 74 2 and into District 71. Thank you. 3 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Thank you. Number 20. 4 MR. CANTIN: Good morning. Thank you for coming to 5 Sarasota. My name is Rich Cantin. I live in Sarasota. I 6 work for the state in Venice. I am a member of the 7 American Federation of State, County and Municipal 8 Employees. I appreciate your holding this hearing, but am 9 surprised that a group seeking public comment would 10 schedule most of the hearings during the day when people 11 who work hard for their families cannot attend. I took 12 time off of work to attend. 13 My main request of you is that you hold hearings after 14 you have completed a first draft of the new lines. With 15 the dramatic changes in Florida's population, I won't have 16 much specifically to comment on until I see what the lines 17 may look like. You can be sure much of the public feels 18 the same way. 19 Finally, although it's great that the new 20 redistricting software is available, it's incredibly 21 difficult to use. I would suggest that you hold seminars 22 on using FREDs or provide simple instructions on the 23 legislative web site. Without this sort of help, the 24 software will be totally unusable for the majority of us 25 who are not computer geniuses.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 55</p> <p>1 running for office he was a frequent visitor to Alliance 2 meetings and we got to like Jerry very much and still do. 3 We discovered when we went to vote that Jerry wasn't on the 4 ballot. We had Jeffrey Kottkamp, sitting up here, he was 5 on our ballot from District 74. This came as quite a 6 revelation to many of us as we discovered that Jeffrey was 7 a resident of Cape Coral two counties away. 8 It seems that what happened is somehow District 74 9 kind of trickled down the Caloosahatchee River and over to 10 the barrier islands. And once it got to the barrier 11 islands it migrated northward, two counties northward, 12 until it got to Manasota Key. At Manasota Key it turned 13 right, took a 90-degree angle, went over and took a chunk 14 out of the mainland and that chunk happened to be the 15 Englewood area. We like Jeffrey Kottkamp, don't 16 misunderstand me. But we also like local representatives 17 and that's what we expected from Jerry Paul. 18 So what we're saying is Governor Jerry would have been 19 very proud of that piece of work by moving up the barrier 20 islands and salamandering that particular House district. 21 We would like to be back in District 71 with local 22 representation. We'd like to be able to twist Jerry's arm 23 once in awhile because he's one of our neighbors. So if 24 you'll just consider -- and we're happy with most 25 everything else, but we would like to be out of District</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 57</p> <p>1 Thank you for giving me this opportunity and I hope I 2 will have the chance to contribute after the preliminary 3 maps are drawn. Thank you. 4 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Number 21. 5 MS. GOODWIN: Good morning. I want to thank you for 6 coming to Sarasota, Manatee Counties. My name is Jane 7 Goodwin. I am a citizen of Sarasota County and very proud 8 to be a citizen of the best community in the state. What a 9 difference ten years can make in reapportionment. My 10 compliments to all of you for the inclusiveness and the 11 openness in making these decisions. I know they are not 12 easy. But we'd like to make it as simple as possible. And 13 the simplicity that I seek is to leave things as they are 14 at least in this part of the state. If it's not broke, 15 don't fix it. 16 There are some concerns to the northern part of our 17 counties, Manatee and Sarasota I'm speaking of, of course, 18 the Pinellas and Hillsborough Counties' area. There are 19 some concerns to our west with the counties that are 20 heavily agricultural and have an interest, an area of 21 interest, with other like-minded counties. We have some 22 concerns with the rapid growth in Collier, Naples and south 23 of us. 24 But in the basics of Sarasota/Manatee County, we 25 really wish from an organizational, from a business, and</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 58</p> <p>1 from a service standpoint, to leave those counties 2 together. Leave the Congressional, leave the Senate, leave 3 the House reps as they are now. And for the most part, I 4 would hope, again, that after preliminaries are completed 5 we have an opportunity to speak again. God bless you-all. 6 Thank you for coming. 7 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Number 23. 8 MR. KARR: Good morning, Mr. Chairman, members of the 9 committee. Thank you for being here. I'd like to thank 10 Wilma Hamilton as well and Nancy Saunders for bringing the 11 students from Booker. That's fantastic that they can 12 participate in this activity. 13 My name is Doug Karr. I'm a citizen of Sarasota 14 County. I'm here today to, I guess, speak in advocacy for 15 the expansion of House District 69, Representative Clark's. 16 I understand that she is underserved by approximately 17 18,000 voters at this time. I would encourage the 18 committee to consider moving her district westward to 19 include the city of Sarasota, St. Armond (phonetic) Circle, 20 Bird Key, and possibly also to consider those Sarasota 21 addresses which sit on the north part of the county line 22 but not directly in the county. 23 Other than that, I would also encourage you to keep 24 the congressional district in place. It serves us well. 25 Congressman Miller serves us well. Thank you very much.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 60</p> <p>1 Carlton's Senate district to come down into Charlotte 2 County and encompass all of Charlotte County. If that 3 can't happen, please don't put us in another Senate 4 district that's based on the other coast of Florida. That 5 doesn't serve our needs at all. And as far as a 6 Congressional district, we'd like to be in one 7 Congressional district instead of two. And I thank you for 8 your time. 9 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Thank you very much. That 10 concludes the public testimony portion of the meeting. 11 There are two others. If you'd complete a card. (Pause.) 12 You're recognized. 13 DR. FERRARA: Thank you. Good morning. I'm 14 Dr. Joseph Ferrara. I've been in Sarasota since 1974. I 15 have a mental health practice, family mental health 16 practice and I'd like to thank you and thank these people 17 for showing up. There is somebody else I want to thank. I 18 want to thank our national founders. We opened this 19 meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. We sang our 20 national anthem. We recognize our ancestors. They fought 21 to free us from a king and kept us from being subjects to 22 the king. 23 They fought also to free us from any religious, cult 24 or church denomination, any priesthood. Thus, we have 25 separation of church and state. They also fought and gave</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 59</p> <p>1 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Thank you. Number 24. 2 MS. FARRELL: Good morning. I too would like to thank 3 you for coming to Sarasota and for giving us the 4 opportunity to speak to you as a group of legislators. 5 I'm Elva Farrell. I am here as a private citizen 6 speaking for myself but also for a number of folks in my 7 neighborhood. I live in Manatee County but I'm one of 8 those who have a Sarasota address. So sort of repeating 9 what Gene Matthews said, folks are surprised sometimes when 10 they hear I'm not aligned with Sarasota. And would like as 11 you look at the Representatives' districts, specifically 12 Donna Clark's district, Number 69, that that district be 13 moved to the north so that we can be in a district that 14 aligns with the issues that concern Sarasota. Thank you. 15 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Thank you. Number 25. (Pause.) 16 Number 26. 17 MS. NAUHOFFER: Good morning. My name is Sharon 18 Nauhofer. I'm here representing the Charlotte Builders' 19 and Contractors' Association. And I'd like to start out by 20 saying ditto to the comments on Districts 71 and 74. I 21 don't think I need to go into that again. It's just a bad 22 situation. We feel bad for you having to campaign in three 23 counties. It's just an awful expense. Bad for the 24 legislator and bad for the citizens. 25 On the Senate side, we would like to request Lisa</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 61</p> <p>1 their lives to separate us from any influence of any 2 political party. They also fought to free us from any 3 foreign control. But recent events, September the 11th, 4 8:45 a.m, the line was drawn. It reaches from New York, 5 goes from Washington, D.C. down to Pennsylvania. On one 6 side of that line are people who advocate American 7 democracy. On the other side of that line are people who 8 oppose it. You here are drawing lines. Our ancestors left 9 us with a Constitution. Inherent in that Constitution are 10 inalienable rights. 11 The most revered if not sacred document that attends 12 that U.S. Constitution is the Bill of Rights, the right to 13 vote. Every vote is to count. You are citizens, we are 14 citizens. They have left us quite a heritage. What I 15 would like to introduce may require a change in our state 16 Constitution and that is in keeping with the concept that 17 our ancestors, what they gave us, was what? More 18 representation. That U.S. Constitution protects each one 19 of us from what? If protects us from our government and it 20 protects us from each other. So the concept is more 21 representation, more seats is good. I repeat. More seats, 22 more representation is good. Thank you. God bless you and 23 God bless America. 24 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Thank you, sir. Next is Tram 25 Hudson, Number 27. Welcome to the public hearing.</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 62</p> <p>1 MR. HUDSON: Good morning, Mr. Chairman. My name is 2 Tram Hudson. I'm chairman of the Republican party in 3 Sarasota County. I have three points to make and I'll be 4 brief. Thank you for coming here and taking citizen input. 5 I hope that when you return to Tallahassee you'll remember 6 what you hear here today.</p> <p>7 Second point I'd like to make is that there is peace 8 in the valley in Sarasota County with the exception of our 9 friend Jeff Kottkamp. (Laughter.) We are very pleased 10 with the House seats and we hope that you will carefully 11 consider when you tweak those lines that you will keep 12 District 69, portions of 67, Jerry Paul and Nancy Detert as 13 a part of the Sarasota delegation. And we like 14 Mr. Kottkamp but I think he would be happy to be further 15 south.</p> <p>16 As it relates to the Senate districts, we are very 17 pleased with both Senator McKay and Senator Carlton's 18 district and we hope that you'll keep those essentially 19 intact. My third point relates to the 13th Congressional 20 District. You heard a lot of testimony here today 21 supporting keeping Manatee and Sarasota Counties together. 22 I think that it makes a lot of sense, communities of 23 similar interest. We are both heavily dependent on 24 tourism. Our economy is driven by the tourism.</p> <p>25 Number two, we are a coastal community. We share a</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 64</p> <p>1 trying to get your polling places so that you would have 2 the opportunity to contract with them, set them up, train 3 your people, hire the additional people you need to work in 4 the polls.</p> <p>5 So I would urge you to try and complete this process 6 as early as possible because every supervisor of elections 7 in the state of Florida is going to be addressing this 8 problem in their individual counties. So please try to do 9 this early. Please let the people know so that those of us 10 who are voting around the state will have the opportunity 11 to know as soon as possible if our precinct has been 12 changed. Thank you very much.</p> <p>13 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Thank you. Are there others who 14 wish to address the public hearing? So now we've concluded 15 the public testimony.</p> <p>16 At this time, I'd like to recognize the president of 17 the Senate, Senator John McKay, to address the public 18 hearing. You're recognized, Mr. President.</p> <p>19 SENATOR MCKAY: Thank you, Chairman Byrd, members of 20 the House, members of the Senate. Welcome to Manatee and 21 Sarasota Counties, Florida. We're privileged to have you 22 here today. And as a member of the Senate, let me thank 23 you for taking your time, sacrificing your time to go 24 around the state to have 22 hearings.</p> <p>25 Though, from my perspective, those 22 hearings are</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 63</p> <p>1 very, very deep concern for the environment. And finally, 2 I think the social factors, that our communities are really 3 interconnected. We are the same media market. Many people 4 who live and work travel across that county line as if it 5 is invisible. We have linkages between many organizations 6 just in education at this building. Part of U.S.F. 7 straddles the county line. I'm a trustee at Manatee 8 Community College. We have campuses in both counties. It 9 truly makes sense to keep the 13th District intact. And 10 we, again, appreciate you-all coming to Sarasota and I wish 11 you luck in your deliberations. Thank you.</p> <p>12 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Thank you. Number 29.</p> <p>13 MS. SANDERS: Hello again. I'm Nancy Sanders and I'm 14 speaking this morning as a citizen and voter in Sarasota 15 County. Since our Supervisor of Elections does not seem to 16 be here, I'd like to share a comment with you that I'm sure 17 she would want brought to your attention, it has to do with 18 your time line.</p> <p>19 Your time line causes the redistricting not to be 20 completed until late spring or early summer. A former 21 Sarasota Supervisor of Elections, Charlene Canster, 22 (phonetic) has indicated that one of the most difficult 23 problems of being supervisor of elections is trying to 24 redraw the precinct lines, trying to notify the voters 25 where they are supposed to vote, even going so far as</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 65</p> <p>1 vitally important because this is the public's business. 2 It needs to be an open process, it needs to be an inclusive 3 process. I had many discussions with the chairman of the 4 committee from the Senate and we've discussed the wisdom of 5 not commencing any kind of political activities, drawing 6 any plans or playing games until all public hearings are 7 completed because it is so vitally important that we take 8 the public's views into consideration before we start 9 drawing those lines because these lines will be etched in 10 stone for ten years. It's how the people's voice will be 11 heard.</p> <p>12 So I urge you to, as I know you have done, to wait 13 until the entire process is completed before you start 14 forming your opinions. Let me further add that I would 15 hope that we complete the entire redistricting process 16 within the 60-day legislative session so that we don't have 17 to go to special session. I think as long as we conduct 18 ourselves as the people expect us to conduct ourselves in a 19 very civil and professional manner, that we can, in fact, 20 accomplish that and we'll be out of there by the middle of 21 March and the people will be happy with the plans and then 22 we can go through the rest of the process. So once again, 23 let me commend you on your efforts, commend you on your 24 commitment, and thank you for the sacrifice that you are 25 making. And, again, welcome to Sarasota and Senate</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 66</p> <p>1 District 26.</p> <p>2 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Thank you, Mr. President. At</p> <p>3 this time, are there members of the panel that would like</p> <p>4 to speak? Representative Clark, you are recognized.</p> <p>5 REPRESENTATIVE CLARK: (Pause.) Well, that</p> <p>6 illustrates one thing, if you're persistent, you will get</p> <p>7 what you need. First of all, I'd like to thank Nancy</p> <p>8 Sanders and all her students. They allowed me to come</p> <p>9 early on and explain to them the redistricting process and</p> <p>10 the importance as we hope -- new voters lining up to vote</p> <p>11 very soon in the future -- they would have an opportunity</p> <p>12 to come here and hear how we decided what districts they</p> <p>13 would, in fact, be voting in.</p> <p>14 And I appreciate them taking time from their very</p> <p>15 important school classroom time to come and see the process</p> <p>16 even though it did involve a field trip this morning and</p> <p>17 share with us the national anthem at this particular moment</p> <p>18 in our history, it's very important for us to remember.</p> <p>19 The key thing we need to do is remember the uniqueness of</p> <p>20 this country and continue our processes, continue our daily</p> <p>21 lives. We need to hug our children and our families.</p> <p>22 And, again, thank you-all for taking the time. And as</p> <p>23 always E-mail me with your questions and your suggestions</p> <p>24 and I can't wait to hear what Nancy Sanders has you-all to</p> <p>25 do for your class project to wrap this up.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 68</p> <p>1 differences and a yearning for representation like Pasco</p> <p>2 County, for example, in this area our representation, in</p> <p>3 terms of the way the districts have been drawn, have served</p> <p>4 the people in this area quite well.</p> <p>5 And I thank all of you who have come to amplify that</p> <p>6 fact across party lines, across interest group lines that</p> <p>7 we are one community and you have in your comments provided</p> <p>8 evidence for this committee as we prepare to draw the lines</p> <p>9 at some point in the future. And thank you once again.</p> <p>10 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Thank you, Representative. Are</p> <p>11 there other members of the panel? Representative Kottkamp</p> <p>12 will now speak for the defense. (Laughter.)</p> <p>13 REPRESENTATIVE KOTTKAMP: Mr. Chairman, I just wanted</p> <p>14 to say that I do feel a lot of love in the room.</p> <p>15 (Laughter.) Thank you-all for taking time out of your day</p> <p>16 to be here. It is so important to make us good -- you're</p> <p>17 good representatives, we need your input, not just today</p> <p>18 but year-round. And it is so critical for us to hear how</p> <p>19 you want these lines drawn. And I especially want to thank</p> <p>20 the high school students. It's just awesome for you to be</p> <p>21 able to see your government in action and we're very happy</p> <p>22 to have you here.</p> <p>23 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Other members of the panel?</p> <p>24 That concludes the public hearing and thanks again to the</p> <p>25 Booker High School students and you, ladies and gentlemen,</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 67</p> <p>1 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Thank you, Representative Clark.</p> <p>2 Representative Flanagan, you are recognized.</p> <p>3 REPRESENTATIVE FLANAGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.</p> <p>4 Chairman Webster, Chairman Byrd, thank you for choosing</p> <p>5 this area of Florida to host one of our public hearings.</p> <p>6 As all of you in the room know, and I want to remind my</p> <p>7 colleagues, that we actually are on the border of Manatee</p> <p>8 County and Sarasota County. But what's interesting to me,</p> <p>9 as one who's been in this county since I was a youngster,</p> <p>10 you don't recognize the border so much.</p> <p>11 In other words, if I may, I graduated from Manatee</p> <p>12 High School in Bradenton. My younger brothers graduated</p> <p>13 from Cardinal Mooney High School. As a matter of fact, one</p> <p>14 of my younger brothers graduated with Senator Carlton. So</p> <p>15 from that perspective, this community is one community.</p> <p>16 And I think Glenda Wright in her comments, speaking on</p> <p>17 behalf of her boss, Congressman Dan Miller, put it best</p> <p>18 when she quoted her boss, Congressman Dan Miller, by</p> <p>19 saying, Our counties have grown up together.</p> <p>20 Well, certainly I've grown up in both counties. And</p> <p>21 as a young professional, I worked for 17 years on Main</p> <p>22 Street in Sarasota, driving 18 miles back and forth. So</p> <p>23 your boss, Congressman Miller, said it best I think. And I</p> <p>24 think, members, you've heard today that unlike other areas</p> <p>25 we've been to in the state of Florida where there are major</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 69</p> <p>1 for attending. We're adjourned.</p> <p>2 (Hearing adjourned at 11:00 a.m.)</p> <p>3</p> <p>4</p> <p>5</p> <p>6</p> <p>7</p> <p>8</p> <p>9</p> <p>10</p> <p>11</p> <p>12</p> <p>13</p> <p>14</p> <p>15</p> <p>16</p> <p>17</p> <p>18</p> <p>19</p> <p>20</p> <p>21</p> <p>22</p> <p>23</p> <p>24</p> <p>25</p>

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